

Bicycle Tour of the Blackstone Valley Tour #1



Points of Interest

1. Blackstone Valley Visitor Center
2. Slater Mill
3. Central Falls Mill District
4. Happy Hollow Pond
5. Cumberland Town Hall
6. Lonsdale Village
7. Blackstone Bikeway Trailhead
8. Blackstone Canal Route
9. Berkeley Village
10. Kelly House/ Quinnville
11. Ashton Mill
12. P&W Railroad
13. Albion Mill
14. Blackstone River
15. The Mill at Manville
16. Cumberland Hill
17. Nate Whipple Highway
18. Diamond Hill Road
19. Cistercian Monastery
20. Ann & Hope Mill
21. Valley Falls Park

BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY
New England's Historic National Park Area

BLACKSTONE VALLEY
TOURISM COUNCIL

Greenways Alliance of Rhode Island

www.rigreenways.org

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Bicycle Tour of the Blackstone Valley Tour #1

Two bicycle tours explore the historic lower Blackstone River Valley. Both routes take riders past many mill sites of the first valley industries and through the countryside in Pawtucket, Cental Falls, Cumberland, and Lincoln, RI.

1. Blackstone Valley Visitor Center. Open year round from 9 a.m to 5 p.m.

2. Slater Mill is the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution.

3. The historic Central Falls Mill District was the site of many early mills along the Blackstone River in the 1800's.

4. Happy Hollow Pond is a source of water for Pawtucket.

5. Cumberland Town Hall at the corner of Mill and Broad Streets was built in 1894. The Samuel Slater Canal Boat, America's only floating British bed & breakfast, is docked nearby at the Blackstone River Bridge.

6. Lonsdale Village is one of several areas developed by the Lonsdale Company to house workers in nearby mills.

7. The Blackstone River Bikeway Trailhead is the start and end point for the 17.7-mile tour.

8. The Blackstone Canal, built by Irish immigrants between 1824 and 1828 to transport goods to and from the commercial centers up and down the river, enjoyed a short lifespan and was soon replaced by the railroad.

9. The mill at Berkeley Village was built in the 1870's. The Berkeley Mill used steam as an energy source because it was too far from the river to use the Blackstone for power.

10. Quinville was the first mill village built in Lincoln. Wilbur Kelly, captain of the clipper ship *Ann & Hope*, owned the *Kelly House* and a mill at this site near the Rte. 116 overpass. The finest ship in the Brown & Ives company fleet, the *Ann & Hope* was named after the wives of the owners, Nicholas Brown's wife, Ann and Thomas Ives' wife, Hope.

11. The Ashton Mill was built by the Lonsdale Company in the 1860's during a period of major expansion.

12. The Blackstone Bikeway continues along the Blackstone River from Ashton village to Manville beside an active rail line owned by the *Providence & Worcester Railroad Co.*

13. The Albion Mill, a cotton mill, has been converted to condominiums.

14. Our ancestors used The Blackstone River as a source of drinking water, and transportation. Native American artifacts dating

back as far as 5,000 years have been found along the river.

15. The Mill at Manville was once the largest cotton mill in the United States under one roof.

16. Cumberland Hill was a stagecoach stop on the turnpike between Providence and Worcester.

17. Nate Whipple Highway past Sneece Pond is a designated Rhode Island bicycle route.

18. Diamond Hill Road north of Route 295 passes farm stands and a vineyard.

19. The Cistercian Monks built a monastery here in the early 1900s. The monastery was partially destroyed by fire in 1950. Today, a 500-acre park offers hiking, biking and cross-country skiing trails.

20. The Ann & Hope Mill was built on the grave site of Reverend William Blackstone, the first European to settle in this area in 1635. The Ann & Hope Mill was the largest mill built by the Lonsdale Company. Row houses for mill workers line the hill down Blackstone Street. Across Broad Street is the William Blackstone Park, monument and Blackstone River Theater.

21. Valley Falls Park was built on the ruins of the Valley Falls Textile Mill, built in 1820.

Rules of the Road

Bike Path

- Bicyclists and In-line Skaters - stay to the right.
- Walkers and Joggers - stay to the left (facing bicyclists).
- Cyclists have right of way.

On-Road Bike Lane

- Cycle in single file on the right side of the road.
- Use hand signals before you turn.
- Always check behind you before changing lanes or turning.

Safety

- Wear a helmet. Helmets are required on all riders and passengers age 15 and younger in RI and 12 and younger in MA.
- Don't use headphones.
- Use reflective gear and clothing at dusk or nighttime.

24 & 18 mile Bike Routes

Long Tour Miles

24 Mile Loop

Total	Seg.	Blackstone Valley Visitor Center parking lot
0	0	L on Roosevelt Ave.
0.9	0.9	S onto Branch Ave.
1.3	0.4	R on River St.
1.4	0.1	L on Ralco Way
1.8	0.4	L on Mill Street.
2.1	0.3	R on Broad St. (Rte 114)
2.7	0.6	L on Front St. (Rte 123)
3.2	0.5	S through Lonsdale Ave. (Rte 122) Intersection. John St. becomes Front St.
3.4	0.2	R at Blackstone Bikeway entrance.
3.8	0.4	S on Blackstone Bikeway
6.9	3.1	S to Kelly House. Take exit uphill to Rte 116 parking area.
7.4	0.5	L on Geo. Washington Hwy (Rte 116) Cross bridge over Blackstone River.
7.7	0.3	R on Mendon Rd. (Rte 122)
7.9	0.2	R on Store Hill Rd.
8	0.1	R on Front St.
8.2	0.2	S to Blackstone Bikeway. Enter Bike Path
11.3	3.1	S to New River Rd. Exit Bike Path
11.4	0.1	R on New River Rd.
11.6	0.2	R on Manville Hill Rd. (Rte 120)
12.4	0.8	R on Mendon Rd. (Rte 122)
12.5	0.1	L on Nate Whipple Hwy. (Rte 120)
15.2	2.7	R on Diamond Hill Rd. (Rte 114) Rd. becomes High St.
17.5	2.3	S on High St.
20.1	2.6	R on Blackstone St.
20.4	0.3	L on Broad St (Rte 123)
20.7	0.3	L on Dexter St.
20.8	0.1	R on High St. (Rte 114)
21.8	1.0	L on Mill St.
22	0.2	R on Ralco Way
22.4	0.4	Hard R, then left on Branch Ave.
22.9	0.5	S on Roosevelt Ave.
23.8	0.9	R into Blackstone Valley Visitor Center parking lot

Short Tour

18 Mile Loop

Total	Seg.	Start at Blackstone Valley Bike Way Trailhead. Follow long tour to the intersection of Blackstone St. and Broad St.
0	0	
17	17	L on Broad St. (Rte 114)
17.1	0.1	R on Ann & Hope Way
17.4	0.3	L on Mendon Rd. (Rte 122)
17.7	0.3	R on Front St.
17.9	0.2	R into Blackstone Bikeway parking area

L is Left, R is Right, S is Straight

Wear your bike helmet!